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TRANSLATION:

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Patent Application Date: December 27, 1978

Title of the Invention: AIR CELL

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S P E C I F I C A T I O N

1. Title of the Invention:

AIR CELL

2. Scope of the Patent Claim:

An air cell comprising an air electrode, an acidic electrolyte consisting of an aqueous solution of a sulfamic acid salt, and a lead cathode.

3. Detailed Description of the Invention

This invention relates to a cell with an air electrode using oxygen as the active material, and it provides an air cell with high voltage, high capacity,

and excellent storage performance by using an aqueous solution of a sulfamic acid salt as the electrolyte and lead as the cathode.

In existing air cells, oxygen is used as the anode active material, zinc is used as the cathode, and a 30-40% aqueous solution of an alkali hydroxide such as sodium hydroxide or potassium hydroxide saturated with zinc oxide is used as the electrolyte. Also, viscosity is imparted by adding a paste such as CMC and sodium polyacrylate so that the surface of the air electrode is covered with a thick coat in order to prevent deterioration of the oxygen-reducing capacity and to prevent leakage from the air supply hole of the anode can, and in this way the cell size is reduced and sealed.

In existing air cells using an alkaline electrolyte such as potassium hydroxide, a large amount of carbon dioxide as well as oxygen is supplied from the air supply hole during storage or when discharging, the electrolyte is brought in contact with carbon dioxide, the carbon dioxide reacts with the potassium hydroxide in solution, and a large amount of potassium carbonate is produced. Consequently, the alkali concentration of the electrolyte is lowered, the electrical conductivity is reduced, and the discharge and operating voltage is lowered.

Furthermore, an alkaline electrolyte contains an almost saturation amount of zincic acid ions produced by the discharge reaction of zinc, and when a large amount of carbon dioxide is introduced, a large amount of zinc carbonate is produced by reacting with the carbonate ions in solution. The solubility of zincic acid ions in the electrolyte is low, and consequently they are deposited on the zinc surface. As a result, the discharge reaction area is reduced, and the discharge and operating voltage and the discharge capacity are reduced.

As a modification, in the case of large air cells the electrolyte is circulated using a pump, etc., and alkali carbonate is regenerated to new alkali hydroxide using calcium hydroxide. However, this requires large equipment, and presents problems concerning the miniaturization of the cell.

The object of this invention is to obtain an air cell with excellent storage performance and high voltage and capacity using an acidic electrolyte consisting of an aqueous solution of a sulfamic acid salt and lead for the cathode.

An actual example of this invention is described in the following with reference to the diagram.

In Figure 1, (1) is the anode can functioning also as the anode, and an air supply hole (2) is located in the bottom. (3) is an air electrode comprising cobalt phthalocyanine and activated carbon, which is in contact with a separator (4) of a lyophilic semipermeable membrane. (5) is the electrolyte retainer [? — Tr. Ed.] containing an acidic electrolyte of a sulfamic acid salt, which is made of a nonwoven cloth or a porous material with an excellent liquid retaining property and acid resistance, and it is placed adjacent to the cathode (6) consisting of zinc powder. (7) is a piece of paper with excellent air permeability and placed adjacent to an air-permeable membrane (8) made of Teflon with numerous pores, which is placed in contact with the air electrode (3), and the other side of (7) is placed adjacent to the bottom of the anode can (1) with its air supply hole (2). (9) is the cathode can which covers the bent opening of the anode can (1) using a gasket (10) to seal the cell. (11) is a sealing material made from a polyvinyl chloride sheet, which is used for sealing the air supply hole (2). The air supply hole (2) in the bottom of the anode can (1) is sealed tightly using a pressure-sensitive adhesive agent (12).

In the case of a cell of this invention, an acidic electrolyte of a sulfamic acid salt is used. Consequently, there is no formation of carbonates due to the large amount of carbon dioxide supplied with oxygen from the air supply hole of the anode can, and there is no deterioration of the electrolyte due to carbonates nor reduction in the discharge and operating voltage of the cell. Also, there are no precipitates of zinc carbonate since no zinc is used, and therefore there is no reduction in the discharge capacity. As a result, an air cell with a high voltage and capacity and excellent storage performance is obtained.

In the cell of this invention, when an aqueous solution of a sulfamic acid salt of pH 1 is used as the electrolyte, the theoretical reduction potential of oxygen is +1.28V with regard to a hydrogen electrode, the oxidation potential of lead is -0.4V, and therefore the theoretical potential difference of the cell is 1.68V, and the operating voltage is about 1.5V due to the polarization by discharging. In the case of an alkaline electrolyte of pH 15, the reduction potential of oxygen is +0.4V, the oxidation potential of zinc is -1.82V, the theoretical potential difference of the cell is 1.72V, and the discharge and operating voltage of the cell of this invention is 0.2V higher, and thus an air cell with a higher voltage and capacity corresponding to the said increment is obtained.

A product of this invention (A), i.e., a button-type air cell of an actual example of this invention, 11.5 mm in diameter and 5.2 mm deep using an acidic electrolyte of an aqueous solution of a sulfamic acid salt at pH = 1 and a cathode comprising lead powder, and an existing product (B), i.e., the same type of air cell using an alkaline electrolyte consisting of an aqueous potassium

hydroxide solution and a cathode comprising zinc powder were compared. Ten of each type cell were discharged at a constant current of 1.5 mA at 25°C. The discharge curve obtained is shown in Figure 2, and the discharge capacity is shown in Table 1. Also, 20 product units of this invention (A) and 20 existing product units (B) were stored at 25°C. After six months and 12 months, ten units of each were discharged at a constant current of 1.5 mA at 25°C. The results obtained are also shown in Table 1.

	1.5mA 定電流放電時間 (時間単位)		
	(a) 初期 (b)	(c)貯蔵時間 (d)25°C 6ヶ月 (e)25°C 12ヶ月	(f)
本発明品 (A)	230時間 (h)	219時間 (93%) (h)	207時間 (90%) (h)
既成品 (B)	230時間 (h)	207時間 (90%) (h)	186時間 (80%) (h)

KEY: (a) discharge time at 1.5 mA constant current (retention rate, %); (b) initial; (c) storage time; (d) six months at 25°C; (e) 12 months at 25°C; (f) product of this invention (A); (g) existing product (B); and (h) hrs.

As shown in Figure 2 and Table 1, the product of this invention (A) has a higher discharge and operating voltage and a superior storage property.

The air cell of this invention has an operating voltage of 1.5V, and therefore it is interchangeable with an alkaline manganese cell, silver oxide cell, nickel zinc cell, etc..

As described above, the air cell of this invention comprising an air electrode, an acidic electrolyte of an aqueous solution of a sulfamic acid salt, and a lead cathode placed in an anode can with an air supply hole and

sealed tightly by a gasket and the cathode can, has a high discharge and operating voltage, and the discharge capacity and storage performance are markedly improved, which is extremely valuable from the industrial standpoint.

4. Brief Description of the Diagram:

Figure 1 is a cross-sectional view of an air cell in accordance with an actual example of this invention, and Figure 2 is a comparison diagram showing discharge curves of the product of this invention (A) and an existing product (B) at a 1.5 mA constant current and 25°C.

- (1) . . . anode can; (2) . . . air supply hole; (3) . . . air electrode;  
(5) . . . electrolyte retainer; (6) . . . cathode.

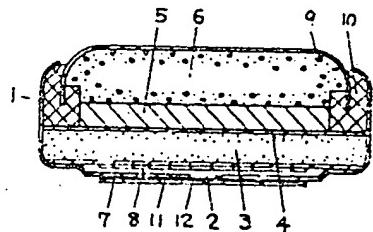


Figure 1.

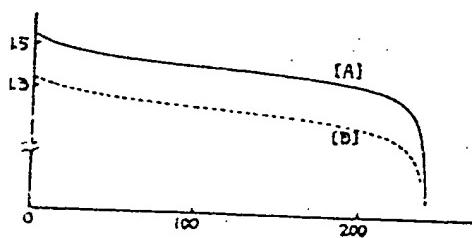


Figure 2.

## ⑪ 公開特許公報 (A)

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## ⑬ 空気電池

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## 明細書

## 1. 発明の名称 空気電池

## 2. 特許請求の範囲

空気電池と、スマフアミン酸塩水溶液からなる充電装置と、前からなる負極体とからなる空気電池。

## 3. 発明の詳細な説明

本発明は酸素を活動質とする空気電池を有する電池に関するもので、充電液にスマフアミン酸塩水溶液、負極体に鉛を用いることにより高電圧が得られる鉛活性電池の優れた空気電池を提供するものである。

従来の空気電池は活性物質に酸素を、負極体に鉛を用い、充電液は苛性ソーダ、苛性カリ等の30~40%の苛性アルカリ水溶液に酸化錫粉を溶解したもので、さらに、PbO<sub>2</sub>、ポリオキシウムリード等の糊料で粘性を与えて、空気極の表面を厚く覆つて充電抵抗が力が低下しないようにして、また正極板の空気供給孔から漏出しないようにして、電極を小形化し面積を増加させていた。

従来の空気電池は前記をもつて充電液

を用い、充電中または放電中に空気供給孔から漏出する他の性質の酸化ガスが混入するため、電解液が酸化ガスに曝れ、液中の活性カリと反応して活性カリを大量に生成した。このため電解液のアルカリ濃度が低下し電極活性度が低く、電池の放電作動範囲を低下せしめた。

さらには、アルカリ活性度は充電の放電初期に上り生成した活性カリイオンを約相近く溶解しており、各層の活性カリが溶入すると、液中の活性イオンを反応するため活性電極を大量に生成した。活性カリイオンは電極に対しても活性度が小さく活性度は比例するし、放電放電回数が減少し、このため、放電初期電圧の低下と放電容量の活性度の大きさを示していた。

この改良として、従来の空気電池では主として活性物質を充電させ、水酸化カリウムで酸性アルカリを除いて活性カリに換化しているが、大きな改善が必要であり、活性を小形化するには多くの困難がある。

本発明は、上述の空気供給孔から漏出する活性

## 特許 第55-90081(2)

電極板と密からなる負極体を用いることにより、活性性炭の優れた高電圧大容量の空気電池を得ることを目的とするものである。

本発明の空気電池を断面にもとづいて説明する。1は正極端子を有した正極板で、端部に空気供給孔2を有している。3は空気極で、4はアクリルアミンと活性炭とからなり、活性性の半導体である導電紙5と接している。5はスルファミン酸との活性電解液を保持している電解液保持材で、導電性、耐候性に優れた不織布または多孔体であり、端部からなる負極体6と接している。7は活性性に優れた板で、多孔の穴孔を有するアクリルの空気通路膜8を介して空気極3と接しており、側面は空気供給孔2が設けられている正極板1の底部に接している。8は負極板でガスクエット10を介して正極板1の端部を折曲して電池を封じている。11は空気供給孔2を密封しているポリ塗化ビニルシートの接着材で、導電性の接着剤で正極板1の端部の空気供給孔2を密封している。

本発明電池はスルファミン酸液の活性電解液を

(3)

(4)

体を用いた直径11.5cm、高さ5.2cmの大きさのボタン型の空気電池である本発明品(A)と、PH=15の苛性カリ水溶液のアルカリ電解液と空気板の負極体を用いた場合は全く同じ構成の空気電池である従来品(B)との各10個を、25℃で1.5mAの定電流で放電し、放電曲線をある箇所に放電容量を表1にまとめた。また、本発明品(A)20個と従来品(B)20個を25℃に育成し、6ヶ月目と12ヶ月目に各10個を25℃、1.5mAで定電流で放電し、その結果を表1にまとめた。

表 1

1.5mA 定電流放電持続時間 (放電率%)		
	初期	充電率
	25°C 6ヶ月	25°C 12ヶ月
本発明品 (A)	230時間 (95 %)	219時間 (99 %)
従来品 (B)	230時間 (90 %)	207時間 (80 %)

用いていたため、正極板の空気供給孔から漏入する無活性ガスの大量の生成による電解液の蒸発が全くないから、電解液が乾燥せず劣化することなく、常に放電作動電圧の低下がなくなり、また充電を用いないから放電受電の活性度もないから放電容量の減少もおらず、高電圧大容量の空気電池の優れた空気電池が得られる。

またさらに、本発明電池の電解液はPHが1であるスルファミン酸塩水溶液を用いると、鋼製の還元電極電位は水素電位に対して+1.23V、前の酸化電位は-0.4Vになり、電池の理論電位差は1.63V、放電による分極で大体作動電圧が1.5Vとなる。これはPH 15のアルカリ電解液での酸素還元電位+0.40V、電池の酸化電位+1.32Vで電池の理論電位差は1.72V、分極により放電作動電圧が大体1.8Vになるのと比較すると、放電作動電圧が0.2V高くなり、その増加分、高電圧大容量の空気電池が得られる。

次に、本発明による実施形態であるPH=1のスルファミン酸塩水溶液の活性電解液と負極の負担

(4)

表2第1から本発明品(A)は、放電作動電圧が高く、耐候性も優れていることがわかる。

また、本発明の空気電池は作動電圧が1.5Vであるので、アルカリタングル電池、液化炭酸電池、ニッケル水銀電池等と互換性を有するものである。

以上のとく、空気極とスルファミン酸塩水溶液からなる活性電解液と他の負極体とを、空気供給孔を有する正極板に挿入し、ガスクエットと負極板とで密封した本発明の空気電池は、放電作動電圧が高く放電容量も耐候性が大幅に向上するもので、その主要的特徴は大なるものである。

## 6. 評価の要點と説明

第1図は本発明の実施例の空気電池の断面図、第2図は本発明品(A)と従来品(B)の25°C 1.5mA定電流の充電率の比較図である。

- 1...正極板 2...空気供給孔
- 3...空気極 4...電解液保持材
- 5...負極板

